(b) No such request has been turned down by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Information from the Directorate General of Health Services and its subordinate offices in Delhi is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House

C.G.H.S. Benefits to Retired Government Servants

4423. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant CGHS benefits to the Central Government employees, who have since retired, after rendering substantial pensionable service, without charging any subscription from them; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Study conducted by the Nutrition Foundation of India

4424. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nutrition Foundation of India has conducted a study commissioned by WHO and FAO;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the study has brought out new problems on nutrition front and various nutritional disorders caused by consumption of food products and cereals produced by intensive use of Chemical fertilisers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) WHO have recently published a book "Nutrition in Developmental Transition in South East Asia" written by Dr. C. Gopalan, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India. According to this book intensive cropping with the use of high analysis fertilisers could result in substantial micro-nutrient losses of sulphur, iron, manganese, zinc and copper.

The book also mentions that both soils and crops in many areas of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are deficient in zinc. These soils are also reported to show deficiencies with respect to iron and manganese but of a lower order.

M.B.B.S. Doctors in rural areas

4425. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the MBBS and other specialised doctors are not prepared to serve in the Rural areas on account of life style and lack of facilities in Rural Areas resulting into the suffering of millions of people and resulting into about 90 per cent Rural Hospital/Health Centres and dispensaries functioning without qualified doctors;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start a new two year middle Rung condensed course for the doctors supposed to serve in Rural areas so that this population is not deprived of the medical facilities; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):